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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

March 4, 1985

per E. Basden 3/11

STATEMENT OF
CHARLES A. BOWSER
COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
BEFORE THE
LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON
BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 1985

MR. CHAIRMAN:

We are requesting \$5,674,000 in supplemental funds for fiscal year 1985. This request is based on the cost to GAO of paying for the 3.5 percent civilian cost-of-living adjustment that became effective on January 6, 1985.

Personnel costs in FY 1985 account for 74 percent of our budget. Normally, at this time in the fiscal year, GAO is unable to absorb any part of this request without causing serious disruption to its operations.

However, at the beginning of FY 1985, GAO decided not to renew its contract with Boeing Computer Services for the further development and installation of the consolidated administrative management information system (CAMIS).



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Thus, we are able to use these funds to absorb all of the funds required to meet the supplemental request for title II civilian pay costs.

GAO is also requesting \$1,121,000 as a program supplemental for fiscal year 1985. Legislation introduced in April 1984 and enacted in July 1984 requires the focus of a significant body of GAO resources on implementation of the Competition in Contracting Act of 1984 (title VII of P.L. 98-369). This act sets forth strict time frames for issuance of regulations to modernize the federal government's procurement appeals process by the inclusion of a bid protest system designating GAO as the primary arbiter of such protests. By law, GAO must decide such protests within 4 months (90 working days from date of filing in GAO or 45 calendar days under expedited protests) or explain to the Government Operations and Governmental Affairs Committees of the Congress why each decision could not be reached within the specified timeframe.

Since GAO had been performing this function for many years, it was understandable that GAO was selected to administer this new statute. However, the timeframes built into the statute and the explanation requirements to congressional committees are necessitating that additional personnel resources be recruited.

To fund these personnel, GAO is requesting \$1,121,000 and 24 average positions in our program supplemental for FY 1985. Because of the cancelation of the Boeing Computer Services Contract, some of those funds are also available to absorb \$126,000 of the program supplemental request. This means that GAO's request is revised to \$995,000.

As you are aware, we have been involved in negotiations on the financial settlement for the Fogel case. We have not requested any funding to cover a settlement because of the uncertainty over the amount of funding that will be needed. Once a settlement is reached later this fiscal year, we may need to submit a request for additional funds.